

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

SIM et al.

NATIONAL PHASE ENTRY OF:
PCT/AU98/00710

Serial No.: Unknown

Filed: Herewith

Title: A DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Examiner: Unknown

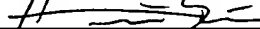
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with the above identified U.S. National Phase Application. The Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the Application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (not amended) A distribution switch for a local exchange, including:
an access unit for switching video channels transmitted to subscribers in response to channel requests received from subscribers; and
a control unit for controlling switching of the channels by the access unit in accordance with stored conditional access data.
2. (not amended) A distribution switch as claimed in claim 1, wherein the control unit receives the channel requests and forwards the requests to the access unit in accordance with the conditional access data.
3. (not amended) A distribution switch as claimed in claim 2, wherein the control unit receives the conditional access data from a remote management system.
4. (amended) A distribution switch as claimed in claim 2[or 3], including a channel interface unit for receiving video signals for the video channels and extracting the conditional access data from the video signals for input to the control unit.